ALAMEDA COUNTY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING SYNTHESIS
Friday April 22, 2005, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MISSION: To strengthen community assets and reduce community risk factors for violence through effective coordination, resource allocation, community practice, and county-wide engagement to reduce the incidence of all forms of violence in Alameda County.

PARTICIPANTS: Josefina Alvarado-Mena, Dale Amaral, Don Blevins, Deane Calhoun, Ralph Cantor, Danice Cook, Rachel Davis, Anna Gee, Chet Hewitt, Lisa Jackson, Sonia Jain, Andrea Marta, Nancy O’Malley, Arnold Perkins, Shonda Scott, Darryl Stewart, Valerie Street, Gail Whang, Andrea Youngdahl

ACTION ITEMS FOR MEMBERS

☐ Sub-committee progress There were multiple sub-committees that emerged and committees should meet as appropriate to advance the work (details below)

☐ Board of Supervisors support The Blueprint is likely going to the Board of Supervisors within the next several months so Leadership Council members should each identify the role they can play (and/or their department/agency/organization) to ensure members understand this effort.

☐ Homework assignment (attached) Part of the May meeting will be focused on structure of the emerging Leadership Council. To inform the discussion, Leadership Council members were asked to complete a questionnaire. Please return it to Prevention Institute by Friday, May 20th. Fax: 510/663-1280 or email: Danice@PreventionInstitute.org.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Don Blevins and Arnold Perkins, Leadership Council Co-Chairs, opened the Leadership Council meeting with a welcome and introductions. They summarized the timeline of this iteration of the Leadership Council which was convened for a set of five meetings from January – May 2005. The first three meetings focused on vision, mission, and goals and established a clear set of priorities for action. This, the fourth Leadership Council meeting, focused on the convergence of the Blueprint and the council’s work to date and translating it into clear action steps.

BLUEPRINT OPERATIONALIZATION
The first three Council meetings focused on vision, mission, and goals based on priority setting of the Blueprint. During this meeting, we laid out how the work of the Leadership Council is aligned with the Blueprint and highlighted specific priorities that emerged. This included review of Blueprint & Leadership Council priorities, implications, and immediate needs and actions. Leadership Council members noted that an important part of planning/implementation is to understand what resources exist, how they are being used, and where.

ADVANCING IMMEDIATE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PRIORITIES
Through the work of the Leadership Council, some clear and immediate content/programmatic and structural priorities have emerged. These are:

• a focus on violence prevention curricula in the schools followed by a focus on improving the overall school environment;
• a need to increase and improve hiring of ex-felons and ultimately addressing other reentry services
• a concerted and coordinated effort in select neighborhoods (initially in 4 or 5, increasing to 12-15 in the next 3-5 years) throughout the county
• sector outreach and planning, such as to the business sector and identifying the roles of multiple county agencies
• securing funding and hiring staff
• web-based information and resources
• communications plan in place
• evaluation and documenting success stories.

The priorities are consistent with the Blueprint recommendations and in particular focus on those associated with 3 of the blueprint’s 4 objectives: promote positive child and youth development; foster safe and vibrant neighborhoods; and ensure program and government effectiveness. At this point, no clear priorities have emerged related to the objective of ensuring supported and functioning families, except as activities may be implemented through the neighborhood pilot implementation. At some point, the Leadership Council needs to assess what other priorities may be important in relation to this objective and/or how to best link to and support existing efforts.

Based on the priorities that have emerged, the Leadership Council established six sub-committees. They are: schools, reentry, pilot site implementation, resource development, data, and business sector working group. They also suggested that a 7th be considered on communications/outreach, which initially could focus on Townhall meetings.

It was agreed that the primary content focus of the work will be related to the neighborhood pilot implementation (e.g. the sub-committees such as schools, reentry, and data will focus on action in the pilot neighborhoods.) This will help ensure an intensity of coordinated efforts within specific geographic locations and to limit the initial scope of work. During this time, efforts should be assessed so that when it is time to bring them to a larger scale, efforts can be as effective as possible. Below is a list of the sub-committees and its members. Each sub-committee has a lead and/or staff/point person.

The initial charge of the committees is to:

1. Identify existing relevant and related efforts/resources (e.g. what efforts are already underway in the selected neighborhoods related to schools, reentry, etc.?)
2. Identify actions that will support neighborhoods implementation (e.g. train teachers on implementing a specific violence prevention curricula in all k-2nd grade classes in the neighborhoods) and/or overall implementation of the Blueprint (e.g. what data is needed to inform and support ongoing efforts?)
3. Identify existing efforts/groups and delineate appropriate linkages/coordination with those efforts (e.g. How does the County effort support and link to the specific reentry efforts that are already underway and not reinvent the wheel?)
4. For pilot site subcommittee: Work with locales to identify and confirm 4-5 sites.
Participants for each committee were identified based on interest, expertise, and participation on related efforts. All participants at the meeting agreed to participate according to the following. For people who were not at the meeting, your participation is proposed according to the following. If anyone is interested in participating in a particular committee and not listed, please contact Prevention Institute (danice@PreventionInstitute.org). The sub-committees are:

**Resource Development**
Seth Kaplan  
Dale Amaral  
Lisa Jackson  
Danice Cook (coordinating)  
*Nancy O’Malley providing input on fee options

**Neighborhood Pilot Sites**
Susan Shenfil  
Andrea Youngdahl  
Arnold Perkins  
Don Blevins  
Betty DeForest  
Darryl Stewart  
Valerie Street (staffing lead)

**Schools**
Ralph Canter (lead)  
Gail Whang  
Pam Nelson  
Josefina Alvarado-Mena  
Anne Gee

**Reentry (proposed participants)**
Junious Williams  
Bob Jackson  
Darryl Stewart  
Sara Bedford (staffing lead)

**Data (based on previous working group)**
Sandra Witt and Sonia Jain (Public Health will take the staffing lead)  
Rick Edwards and Will Johnson, Social Services  
Gary Thompson, ICPC  
Tony Crear, Probation  
Howard Pinderhughes, UCSF  
Junious Williams, Urban Strategies

**Business Sector**
Nate Miley  
Business Representatives

The Leadership Council asserted that it is critical as efforts move forward to know what existing efforts are underway. This will help inform and understanding of how resources are being allocated, what the gaps are, where there is risk of duplication, and how effective efforts can be supported and strengthened. Given the scope of county-wide inventorying, the Council agreed that immediate assessment activities would be focused on the identified neighborhoods (for example, the schools committee will access/identify school-based violence prevention curriculum for the schools in the pilot neighborhoods and the reentry committee should be thinking about focusing their efforts on the reentry population of the pilot neighborhoods). The general assessment process will be co-led by Don Blevins and Arnold Perkins (with an initial focus on what is going on in the pilot neighborhoods).

**Board of Supervisors Engagement**
This effort was presented to the Board of Supervisors at their May retreat and will formally go the Board in June or July depending on the BOS schedule. It was agreed that every member of the Council has a role to play in terms of building awareness among members of the Board of Supervisors as to how the Blueprint and its recommendations can support their ability to carry out their department’s violence prevention activities. This may include engaging representatives of their
department/agency/organization as appropriate to meet with members of the board or meeting with members of the board themselves.

**UPDATE ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

*Resources committee report*

The resource committee has not had an opportunity to meet. Prevention Institute in partnership with Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Harvard School of Public Health and Billie Weiss, Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center at UCLA is applying for a CDC grant for urban youth violence prevention. Several local partners, including Chief Blevins and Supervisor Miley have agreed to participate. The grant is very competitive, but should Prevention Institute get funded it will be another opportunity to inform our work, learn from others, share with others, and focus on strategy.

*Business sector meeting*

There was a two-hour business sector meeting on April 14 with approximately nine business representatives that included Target, Wells Fargo, KSI Keyboards, Jay-Phares Corporation, and the Oakland Commerce. Overall, at the business meeting there was a lot of excitement about what we are doing and a willingness to engage in the work. While participants had some questions as of yet that are unresolved regarding specific roles and activities for the business sector, they agreed to form a business working group and to recruit their peers and colleagues to participate. Their recommendation was that one business member would participate on the Leadership Council as a liaison starting in approximately June. Prevention Institute provided a presentation of how we got to where we are at and where we are currently. While they were impressed with the content, some of their comments had implications for communications and priorities. In particular, they thought the content presented an institutional view and did not personalize the issue of violence. One example of this is the Leadership Council mission statement, which confirms that while this is something we as a group can rally around, it is not necessarily appropriate in our external communications. They agreed that we should explicitly address police brutality, and that it could be valuable to engage unions and coaches. Overall, the business community has a keen awareness of the impact of violence.

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT**

There was a brief presentation on the current structure of the Leadership Council. The initial intention of the Leadership Council was to have five meetings that focused on vision, mission, and goals. The fifth meeting is in May and the final charge of this initial Leadership Council is to focus on developing an effective structure/anatomy. Based on this, a homework assignment (questions below and attached) was handed out that addresses the development of the Leadership Council, such as structure, membership/criteria (individual and group), frequency of meetings, outreach, timeline, orientation, and commitment. Please complete return your responses to Danice Cook (danice@preventioninstitute.org, 510-663-1280) at Prevention Institute by Friday, May 20, 2005.

The questions are:

1. What structural components should be considered for the Leadership Council? (e.g., subcommittees, executive committee, etc.)
2. How often should the Leadership Council meet?
3. What criteria (individual and group) should be used for member selection?
4. Is there a particular person/organization that should be included?
5. Any ideas regarding the timeline for Leadership Council development?
6. As we look at Leadership Council development, is the current membership the basis of the Leadership Council?

7. Are you willing to commit to a year of service on the Leadership Council?

**NEXT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: Monday May 23, 2005  
Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Location: 1000 San Leandro Blvd, Room 100, San Leandro, CA